(c) to (e) Presently ATM has been designed to withdraw 40 notes at a time, therefore, maximum withdrawal allowed per single transactions is Rs.40,000/- only. Further, RBI and Indian Bank's Association have reported that they have not received any demands to increase minimum withdrawal from ATM to atleast Rs.50,000/- per day.

Wage revision in LIC

2048. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the wage revision for employees and officers of Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) is due since August, 2007;

(b) if so, what are reasons for such delay in wage settlement; and

(c) when Government is expected to reach an agreement for wage settlement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. As per the Life Insurance corporation Act, 1956, the Central Government is empowered to notify revision of wages for various classes of employees of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC). For this purpose, the LIC management in consultation with various employees' unions/associations submits a detailed proposal for wage revision to the Government. Presently, the consultation process is underway and LIC is yet to submit a proposal to Government.

India's bid for office in ADB

2049. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that China toppled India's bid for the post of Vice President (Operations) of the Asian Development Bank (ADB);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for India not being able to lobby effectively for garnering necessary support for the position; and

(d) whether this would have an effect on the quantum of ADB lending to this country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (d) Article 35 of ADB Charter stipulates that Vice Presidents (VPs) are appointed by the Board of Directors of the ADB on the recommendation of the President. The Post of VP (Operations) fell vacant on July 31, 2008. In addition to India, there were candidates from five other countries, namely, China, Korea, Thailand. Malaysia and Chinese Taipei, The Board appointed Mr. Zhao Xiaoyu, a Chinese national to this post. Appointment of a Vice President and lending to India by ADB are not related.

Release of Central funds for Orissa

2050. SHRI BALBIR PUNJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount released by his Ministry to Orissa during the last three years, scheme-wise and year-wise; and

(b) the details of utilization of Central funds in Orissa for various schemes of rural development during last three years, scheme-wise, year-wise and district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Details of central assistance given to Orissa scheme-wise, year-wise, for the last three years are given in the Statement-I (*See* below)

(b) The Ministry of Rural Development implements several schemes for rural development and poverty alleviation, through the State Governments and Union Territories Administrations. These include National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS), Swarnjayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY) for poverty alleviation and employment generation in rural areas of the country. The other major schemes of the Ministry are Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY), Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP), Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP)/National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) and Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC). Details of scheme-wise funds released by the Ministry of Rural Development and utilized by the Government of Orissa during the last three years *i.e.* 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 are given in Statement-II.

Statement-I

Details of Central Assistance to the State of Orissa

Plan Scheme (Rs. in Crores)

Sl. No.	Name of Scheme/Year	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Normal Central Assistance	336.00	378.24	441.84
2.	Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme	139.80	629.82	800.10
3.	Additional Central Assistance (ACA) for Externally Aided Projects	141.84	130.14	154.51
4.	A.C.A. for Externally Aided Projects (Back to Back)	700.49	105.78	512.71
5.	National Social Assistance Programme including Annapurna	170.22	184.79	208.03
6.	National E-Governance Plan	16.75	12.99	11.29
7.	Nutrition Programme for Adolescent Girls	2.95	2.95	1.26
8.	A.C.A. for other Projects	20.40	24.00	130.00

1	2	3	4	5
9.	Backward Regions Grants fund	250.00	130.00	130.00
10.	Jawahar Lal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission	23.55	151.24	143.58
	TOTAL	1801.98	1749.94	2533.32

Non Plan (Rs. in Crores)

Sl. No.	Name of scheme/Year	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
1.	Investment in Special State Government Securities	1085.28	169.09	160.95
2.	Share in Central Taxes	6220.42	7846.50	8279.96
3.	Assistance to State Government from N.C.C.F.	25.00		98.87
4.	Grants for Upgradation of Services and Special Projects	5.98		
5.	Contribution to Calamity Relief Fund	291.34	180.87	324.50
6.	Grants for Local Bodies	171.00	160.60	212.60
7.	Equalisation Grant for Education Sector	58.57	64.13	35.11
8.	Equalisation Grant for Health Sector	34.81	19.41	21.64
9.	Grants in Aid for Maintenance for Roads and Bridges	368.77	368.77	368.77
10.	Grants in-Aid for Maintenance of Public Buildings	48.64	145.92	48.65
11.	Maintenance of Forests	15.00	15.00	15.00
12.	Grant in-Aid for Heritage Conservation	12.50	12.50	9.37
13.	State Specific Needs	40.50	39.50	51.44
14.	Releases on account of VAT Compensation	0.00	0.00	18.93
15.	Releases on account of CST Compensation		131.53	5.49
	TOTAL	8377.81	9153.82	9651.27
	GRAND TOTAL	10179.80	10903.76	12184.59

Statement-II

Financial Performance of Rural Development Programmes -

(Rupees in Lakhs)

Programme	Central Allocation	Central Release	Total Available Funds**	Total Expenditure
1	2	3	4	5
		Year 2006-07		
NREGS	Not made***	76230.49	89018.66	73346.62
PMGSY	Not made	26548.00	26548.00	147521.00
SGRY	9623.95	11931.45	15638.43	13222.67
SGSY	6729.73	6724.76	9251.89	8611.11
IAY	15042.66	15042.66	23866.18	21534.98
DRDA Admn.	1182.71	1790.12	1835.40	355.27
DPAP	Not made	1480.72	1480.72	0.00
IWDP	Not made	2060.00	2060.00	0.00
CLR	93.22	93.22	93.22	0.00
SRA and ULR	467.50	467.50	467.50	0.00
ARWSP	10332.00	9722.58	16120.33	9954.61
TSC	68921.72	15910.27	15910.27	12760.82
		Year 2007-08		
NREGA	Not made	53695.69	81471.83	57956.90
PMGSY	Not made	191984.00	191984.00	174883.00
SGRY	4691.19	4492.37	6515.12	6864.87
SGSY	10271.49	10036.46	13315.46	11694.96
IAY	20893.26	20280.32	31644.75	34394.63
DRDA Admn.	1136.60	1855.76	1855.76	0.00
DDP*	—	—	—	—
DPAP	Not made	2393.00	2393.00	0.00
IWDP	Not made	1793.91	1793.91	0.00

1	2	3	4	5
ARWSP	16885.00	17194.55	23360.27	14577.48
TSC	69942.03	21432.61	21432.61	20406.23
		Year 2008-09		
NREGA	Not made	76297.49	100807.24	58780.58
PMGSY	97300.00	115908.00	133196.00	231372.00
SGSY	12141.96	12132.09	17172.55	14818.29
IAY	29248.20	46082.17	66133.76	25709.24
DRDA Admn.	1269.91	647.16	669.45	485.62
DDP*	—	—	—	—
DPAP	Not made	2513.33	6014.73	1716.97
IWDP	Not made	3354.04	5949.06	2072.79
ARWSP	29868.00	29868.00	64389.14	51056.67
TSC	84902.24	28636.94	40645.50	28020.23

*Desert Development Programme (DDP) is not being implemented in Orissa.

**Total available funds include the State share also.

***Central allocation not made as these are demand-based schemes.

Merger and acquisitions of Public Sector Banks

2051. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has held a discussion in New Delhi recently with leading Public Sector Banks to explore the possibility of creating a few large banks through merger and acquisitions;

(b) if so, with what results; and

(c) what is the policy of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) In one of the meetings with the Chief Executives of the some select nationalised banks, the issue of merger was also discussed amongst other subjects to understand their view in this regard. However, no specific decision was taken in this meeting.

(c) So far, the Government has not given any direction to any specific bank to consider proposal for merger/amalgamation with a particular bank. Government is also of the view that the initiatives for consolidation amongst the Public Sector Banks should emanate from the